

STATE SOCIETY COMMITTEES.

The elected and appointed committees of the State Society are as follows:

Committee on Arrangements—William Simpson (chairman), San Jose; T. C. Edwards, Salinas, and Saxton T. Pope, Watsonville.

Committee on Cancer Investigation—W. F. B. Wakefield (chairman), San Francisco; Martin H. Fischer, Oakland, and Emmet Rixford, San Francisco.

Committee on Medical Education—F. Dudley Tait (chairman), Jas. H. Parkinson, Sacramento, and Andrew S. Lobingier, Los Angeles.

Committee on the Prevention of Venereal Diseases—A. B. Grosse (chairman), San Francisco; J. C. Spencer, San Francisco, and A. E. Osborne, Santa Clara.

Public Health Commission—F. C. E. Mattison (chairman), Pasadena; Geo. H. Kress and L. M. Powers, Los Angeles; Stanley P. Black, Pasadena, and W. F. Snow, Stanford.

Committee on Publication—Philip Mills Jones (chairman), Langley Porter, John Spencer and Harry M. Sherman, San Francisco, and Martin Fischer, Oakland.

Committee on Public Policy and Legislation—F. B. Carpenter (chairman), San Francisco; J. H. Parkinson and Jas. W. James, Sacramento.

Committee on Scientific Work—Martin Fischer (chairman), Livermore; A. W. Hewlett and Harry M. Sherman, San Francisco, and C. Van Zwalenburg, Riverside.

Committee on Tuberculosis—George H. Evans (chairman), H. C. Moffitt, C. M. Cooper and Rene Bine, San Francisco, and F. M. Pottenger, Monrovia.

Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear, Medical and

Surgical. By William Lincoln Ballenger, M. D., Professor of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Department of Medicine, University of Illinois; Fellow of the American Laryngological Association; Fellow of the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Association; Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, etc. Illustrated with 471 engravings and 16 plates. Lea and Febiger, 1908.

Dr. Ballenger has given us a book that truly embodies what is new and what is to be recommended in these special branches of medicine. His own experience and choice of methods runs through the pages, an example and guide to his readers. Too much can not be said in favor of this kind of a publication which is not a compilation but an authoritative treatise giving the result of personal experience. The chapter on the choice of septum operations with the surgical correction of obstructive lesions of the septum gives the various methods in vogue, but is also a good guide as to the method to be pursued in a given case. The reader is not led to suppose that the submucous resection or whatever the method described is the best for all cases. The principles of treatment of inflammations and the modalities for promoting the reactions of inflammations are well described, the author quoting Adami extensively. All of the newer remedies such as the Leukodescent Light, Biers treatment and the Oponic Index and Vaccine Treatment of Infectious Diseases receive careful attention.

The submucous resection of the inferior turbinate bone is carefully described, but the reviewer feels that very few have the necessary dexterity to carry it out. Naturally, the swivel knife receives marked attention and while its place is well established in the submucous resection of the septal cartilage, I feel that the multiplicity of uses to which it is put, as, for example, in the removal of the middle turbinal, page 155, are not to be recommended. The

surgery of the accessory sinuses is complete and well illustrated. A chapter is devoted to the surgical correction of external deformities, a subject heretofore but poorly discussed.

The radical excision of the tonsils is up to date, the author giving his method of using only a scalpel. His ideas are sane on this subject and he believes that only the diseased portion of a tonsil need be removed, i. e., if one can take out all of the diseased tonsillar tissue leaving the capsule, the latter is preferable. The larynx and ear are equally well described and in keeping with the tone of the book. The various plastic mastoid methods are made very simple. The surgery of the facial and hypoglossal nerves with a detailed technic is very complete. Numerous illustrations and a number of colored plates help to make this a treatise on the above subjects which would be difficult to duplicate.

W. S. F.

Borderland Studies. Miscellaneous Addresses and

Essays Pertaining to Medicine and the Medical Profession, and Their Relations to General Science and Thought. By George A. Gould, M. D., Former Editor of The Medical News, The Philadelphia Medical Journal, Etc., Etc.

The versatility of Dr. George Gould is no where more evident than in this collection of miscellaneous addresses and essays, all of them suggestive, instructive and charming. They cover a wide range, from King Arthur's Medicine to Child Fetiches and Vocation. The opening essay contains a history and comparative study of the dwellings of human beings at various epochs and in different countries, in their relation to fresh air and light. This is really a study in hygiene. The next one, entitled "A System of Personal Biological Examination, Etc.," is a plea for a thorough-going and repetitive system of physical and pathological examinations, which will give us ultimately a general and comprehensive science of anthropology, based upon all the data, morphological, physiological and pathological of the entire individual.

"Prophecy and prognosis are based upon a thorough knowledge of the past and present fact, a rigid understanding in a scientific sense of the evolution of the organism and of its present departures from a normal standard. For his children a foresighted man must wish such an accounting, such a prophecy and prognosis; and as to himself every intelligent adult, when he awakens to scientific consciousness, must try to look forward through the years, and to reckon up his powers and possibilities of life. The crowning work of scientists is to turn science into prescience. Unification of the sciences dealing with the conduct of life; the making practical and useful our knowledge of the individual organism, and lastly, to establish a scientific prescience—such are the ideals of a living anthropology."

The third essay on the "Life Study of Patients" deals with the biographic method of studying disease. Dr. Gould's idea is that the comparative study of a large number of clinical life histories would throw light on the etiology of many diseases. This essay at once recalls the numerous interesting, though at times partisan, writings of Dr. Gould on eye-strain; and the opening sentence of Spencer's "First Principles": "We too often forget, not only is there 'a soul of goodness in things evil,' but very generally also a soul of truth in things erroneous."

The fourth essay on "The Seven Deadly Sins of Civilization" deals with the etiological importance of tobacco, tea, coffee, alcohol, sugar, venereal diseases, lack of fresh air and light, and eye-strain in the production of disease, while the next one on "Disease and Sin" largely concerns itself with "the social evil." That on "King Arthur's Medicine" is a causerie on medical practice and experiences of that time. The chapter on "Some Intellectual Weeds of